**Foundations of College Writing – From Topic to Problem/Question**

Below are guidelines for changing an issue/event/person to a problem or question about which you can make an argument.

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| **Possible Topic** | **What Others Have Said** | **Problems/Questions** | **What I Can Add to the Conversation** |
| Example: *Taylor Swift* | Taylor Swift is a star because her music appeals to lots of different people  Taylor Swift is a star because of her looks and personality | Why is Taylor Swift so popular? What genre(s) does her music fit into? What are her musical influences?  What makes a person a celebrity? Is it a good thing or a bad thing that we judge celebrities based on their lives as well as their art? | History of her music career and what other musicians shaped it.  Analysis of her songs (music and lyrics) showing similarities/differences with country, rock, etc.  Identify qualities that make a person famous; show how Taylor exhibits these qualities  Evaluate celebrity qualities; argue for why certain ones are more or less important |
| Drug Abuse in Professional Sports | The restriction on Drug Abuse in professional sports should be more involved. Testing should be done more frequently than they have been.  If Drug Abuse only happens every now and then, what’s the big deal? | Why should testing be done more frequently? What drives the opinion so much?  Why is it so big and brought to the media so much? | How much has the drug abuse issue increased in the past 50 years or so. How does it affect the athlete, the sport and the fans.  Showing that when it happens every so now and then, it is usually with the big time athletes who are playing at all-star level, record breaking levels, etc. |